

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 MEXICO 11117 170009Z

73

ACTION SCSE-00

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 H-02 L-03 DHA-02 SCA-01 SNM-02

DEAE-00 /021 W

----- 061299

R 161704Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1881

UNCLAS MEXICO 11117

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC,MX

SUBJ: CASE REVIEW OF ALL AMERICAN PRISONERS IN MEXICO:

CHAVEZ, JOHN J

REF: STATE 194199

1. DENIAL OF CONSULAR ACCESS: PER EMBASSY FILE PRISONER WAS ARRESTED 8/24/74. HE TOLD CONOFF IN FIRST INTERVIEW HE HAD REQUESTED PERMISSION TO CALL FAMILY, LAWYER AND EMBASSY MANY TIMES DURING DETENTION BUT WAS ALWAYS GIVEN AN EXCUSE WHY HE COULD NOT. CONOFF LEARNED OF ARREST THRU NEWS BROADCAST, SPOKE WITH CHAVEZ BY PHONE SEPTEMBER 4 AND VISITED HIM SEPTEMBER 10. PROBLEM OF EARLY CONSULAR ACCESS IS MATTER OF SERIOUS CONCERN WHICH EMBASSY CONTINUES TO ADDRESS IN CONTACTS WITH MEXICAN OFFICIALS AT ALL LEVELS.

2. ALLEGATION OF MISTREATMENT WHILE IN PRISON: CONOFF RECEIVED LETTER FROM PRISONER DATED JANUARY 30, 1975 STATING HE HAD BEEN KEPT IN SOLITARY CONFINEMENT SINCE DEC. 12, 1974 AFTER BEING CHARGED WITH ATTEMPTED ESCAPE (HE HAD BEEN FOUND HIDING IN METAL SHOP AFTER CHECKLIST). CHAVEZ ALLEGED THAT ALTHOUGH HE OFFERED NO RESISTENCE WHEN FOUND, AUTHORITIES BEAT HIM SO BADLY HE COULD NOT MOVE FOR THREE DAYS. HE STATED THAT DURING SOLITARY CONFINEMENT HIS EYE GLASSES WERE STOLEN AND THAT HE HAD NOT RECEIVED NEW GLASSES WHICH HE BADLY NEEDED. EMBASSY TELPHONED SUB-DIRECTOR OF PRISON AND WAS ANSWERED CHAVEZ HAD BEEN RETURNED TO REGULAR

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 MEXICO 11117 170009Z

CELL JANUAR 30 AND THAT GLASSES HAD BEEN ISSUED TO HIM.

A FOLLOW-UP LETTER FROM CHAVEZ APRIL 6 CLAIMED HE HAD NOT BEEN RELEASED UNTIL FEBRUARY 10, HAD NOT RECEIVED GLASSES UNTIL MARCH 25 AND WAS PRESENTLY IN SOLITARY CONFINEMENT AGAIN SINCE FEBRUARY 28 WITHOUT KNOWING THE REASON. CONOFF VISITED MAY 22 AND REPORTED CHAVEZ RECENTLY RELEASED FROM SOLITARY "WHERE HE HAD BEEN PUT FOR REPORTEDLY TRYING TO ESCAPE". CONOFF VISITED JULY 3 (NO PROBLEMS) BUT ON SEPTEMBER 10 VISIT FOUND CHAVEZ AGAIN IN SOLITARY FOR FIGHTING. CONOFF SPOKE TO SUB-DIRECTOR, WHO SAID THAT CHAVEZ SEEMED TO BE HABITUAL TROUBLE-MAKER AND HAD BEEN PUT IN SOLITARY TWICE PREVIOUSLY, FOR ATTEMPTED ESCAPE AND FOR SMOKING MARIJUANA. THERE IS NO MENTION IN FILE OF EMBASSY ACTION REGARDING SECOND CONFINEMENT OR ALLEGED BEATING OF DECEMBER 12, 1974. CONSIDERING LAPSE OF TIME BETWEEN ALLEGED BEATING AND FIRST CONSULAR VISIT, PROTEST IN THIS CASE NO LONGER APPEARS FEASIBLE BUT EMBASSY CONTINUING TO SEEK REMEDY TO GENERAL PROBLEM OF ABUSE.

3. COMMISSIONED WORK FOR REDUCTION OF SENTENCE:  
EMBASSY FILE MAY 23, 1975 CONTAINS LETTER FROM CONOFF OF PRISONER PASSING HIM INFORMATION AS TO HOW TO APPLY FOR COMMISSIONED WORK WHICH PRESUMABLY IS IN ANSWER TO AN EARLIER QUERY. NOW HOWEVER, FIANZA IS APPARENTLY IMMINENT AND PRISONER HAS INDICATED HE IS NO LONGER INTERESTED IN COMMISSIONED WORK.

4. FIANZA: PER EMBASSY FILES SEPTEMBER 10, 1975, AND NOVEMBER 3, 1975, JOHN CHAVEZ HAS BEEN SENTENCED TO FIVE YEAR, HAS APPEALED AND HAD FIANZA SET AT 8,000 DOLLARS. PRISONER IS NOW AWAITING FUNDS FROM FAMILY.  
JOVA

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 16 DEC 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975MEXICO11117  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750437-0820  
**From:** MEXICO  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1975/newtext/t19751236/aaaabfkd.tel  
**Line Count:** 93  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION SCSE  
**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 75 STATE 194199  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** KelleyW0  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 26 NOV 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <26 NOV 2003 by ReddocGW>; APPROVED <12 JAN 2004 by KelleyW0>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
06 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** CASE REVIEW OF ALL AMERICAN PRISONERS IN MEXICO: CHAVEZ, JOHN J  
**TAGS:** CASC, MX, US, (CHAVEZ, JOHN J)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006